

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An information providing apparatus characterized by comprising:

input means input with image data representing a plurality of image in time series;

image generation means for generating a plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally, based on the image data input, and for generating the plurality of images such that an image at a second time point is larger than an image at a first time point, among the plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally; and

image display means for displaying the plurality of images generated;

focus setting means for setting a focus on an image positioned at an area surrounded by a frame, among the plurality of images displayed; and

selection means for selecting an image set by the focus setting means;

wherein the plurality of images are index images which are respectively selected from scenes of one program, and the image display means displays the program of the selected index image.

2. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein

the first point is a future time point with respect to the second time point, and

the image generation means makes the image display means display the plurality of images such that the image at the first time point is situated in a more inner circumferential side of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images than the image at

the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

3. (Currently Amended) [[An]] ~~The~~ apparatus according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the image generation means makes the image display means
display the plurality of images such that the image at the first time point is displayed
more faded than the image at the second time point, among the plurality of images
arranged spirally.

4. (Currently Amended) [[An]] ~~The~~ apparatus according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the image generation means makes a frame having a
predetermined size be displayed at a predetermined position on the image display means,
and moves the plurality of images spirally displayed, with respect to the frame, in
response to input operation of an operation input.

5. (Currently Amended) [[An]] ~~The~~ apparatus according to claim 4,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the image generation means moves the plurality of images
arranged spirally, in a radial direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

6. (Currently Amended) [[An]] ~~The~~ apparatus according to claim 4,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the image generation means moves the plurality of image
spirally arranged, in a substantially circumferential direction of a spiral constructed by
the plurality of images.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]] The apparatus according to claim 4,~~
~~characterized by~~ further comprising focus setting means for setting a focus on an image
positioned at an area surrounded by the frame, among the plurality of images.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]] The apparatus according to claim 1,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the image display means generates a background image
which radially spreads from a center of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images,
and makes the image display means display the background image.

10. (Currently Amended) An information providing method ~~characterized by~~
comprising:

an input step of being input with image data representing a plurality of image in
time series;

an image generation step of generating a plurality of images which are sequential
and arranged spirally, based on the image data input, and of generating the plurality of
images such that an image at a second time point is larger than an image at a first time
point, among the plurality of images which are sequential and arranged spirally; and

an image display step of displaying the plurality of images generated, on image
display means;

a focus setting step of setting a focus on an image positioned at an area

surrounded by a frame, among the plurality of images displayed; and
a selection step of selecting an image set by the focus setting means;
wherein the plurality of images are index images which are respectively selected
from scenes of one program, and the image display means displays the program of the
selected index image.

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11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 10,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein
the first point is a future time point with respect to the second time point, and
in the image generation step, the plurality of images are displayed such that the
image at the first time point is situated in a more inner circumferential side of a spiral
constructed by the plurality of images than the image at the second time point, among the
plurality of images arranged spirally.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 10,
~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the image generation step, the plurality of images are
displayed such that the image at the first time point is displayed more faded than the
image at the second time point, among the plurality of images arranged spirally.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The~~ method according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the image generation step includes a display step of generating a frame having a predetermined size and of displaying the frame at a predetermined position on the image display means, and a movement step of moving the plurality of images spirally arranged, with respect to the frame, in response to input operation of an operation input.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The~~ method according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the image generation step, the plurality of images arranged spirally are moved in a radial direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The~~ method according to claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the image generation step, the plurality of image spirally arranged are moved in a substantially circumferential direction of a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The~~ method according to claim 13, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a focus setting step of setting a focus on an image positioned at an area surrounded by the frame, among the plurality of images.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The method according to claim 10,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the image generation step includes a background image
generation step of generating a background image which radially spreads from a center of
a spiral constructed by the plurality of images.